

Greensboro Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Public Involvement Plan Revision: January 31, 2001

Adopting the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program

Background

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will produce a Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) that meets applicable federal and state requirements. The MTIP will be developed cooperatively with NCDOT and the Transit Operator. The components of an MTIP will be kept on file by the Lead Planning Agency. The Lead Planning Agency will be responsible for addressing the questions of any person or group making inquiries regarding the MTIP during and following the MTIP development process.

Public Review Policy

The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) will review the draft MTIP. The TAC will release the document for a public review period of at least 30 calendar days prior to adopting the MTIP. The provisions that follow may be supplemented with additional outreach and public involvement strategies at the discretion of the MPO.

1. **Public notice** inviting written comments will be made. This notice will (1) identify a due date for comments, and a contact for questions or additional information; and (2) list locations where the draft MTIP is available for review and directions for submitting comments, except where space limitations permit only the information in item 1 to be displayed. Public notice will be given through the media outlets listed below. Targeted mailings, other advertising outlets, and additional outreach strategies may also be used.
 - Major newspaper display ads at least two display ads will be run in different weeks in each major paper (including major newspapers serving minority communities) during the public review period;
 - Local access cable television advertisements on the City's Channel 13 will be run throughout the public review period.
 - Notice placed on the website of the Lead Planning Agency throughout the public review period; and
 - A press release to area media outlets made by the Lead Planning Agency at or prior to the commencement of the public review period.
2. **MTIP documents** for public review will be distributed to the following locations:
 - Area offices and libraries: City Clerk's Office, County Commissioners Office, GDOT Office, NCDOT Division 7 Office, Greensboro Transit Authority Office, NC A&TSU Library or Student Union, UNCG Library, all Greensboro Public Library Branches; and
 - The website of the Lead Planning Agency will post the MTIP documents for public review.
3. A **public meeting** will be held during or prior to the aforementioned public review period. The meeting will provide information and the opportunity to make written and oral comments. If the public meeting precedes the public review period, then the public notice shall use the same media outlets as the public review period. One display ad per major newspaper will suffice, and website and local access cable television notices will be run for at least a week prior to the meeting.
4. **Public comments** received through the public involvement process will be documented and presented to the TCC and TAC at or prior to the meeting of adoption for the MTIP in summary form or verbatim at the Lead Planning Agency's discretion. Responses to public comments will be included as appropriate. When the comments received are deemed sufficiently significant, a summary and a statement of the disposition of the comments will be documented and be provided with the final MTIP document to FHWA, FTA, and NCDOT, and made available to other parties upon request or as otherwise appropriate.
5. **Additional strategies for informing and involving low income and minority communities** will be used in addition to measures listed above that contribute to this objective such as newspaper advertising and the availability of documents in all Greensboro Branch Libraries. At a minimum, these will include targeted mailings to the transit operator's community organizations mailing list. Additional strategies will be tested, documented, and evaluated for inclusion in future Public Involvement Plan updates.

Amending the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program and Long Range Transportation Plan

Background

Periodically, amendments or updates to the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and the Long Range Transportation Plan are needed. These amendments or updates will be made to meet applicable federal and state requirements and will be developed cooperatively with NCDOT and the Transit Operator. Such materials will be kept on file by the Lead Planning Agency. The Lead Planning Agency will be responsible for addressing the questions of any person or group making inquiries regarding the amendments.

Public Review Policy

The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) will review the draft amendment(s). For **Major Amendments**, the TAC will release the document(s) for a public review period of at least 30 calendar days prior to adoption. A public review period will not be necessary for **Minor Amendments**, but may be held at the discretion of the MPO. Major amendments will typically include additional conformity analysis and/or other significant changes to highway capacity projects or transit programs. Minor Amendments typically include (1) the addition, deletion, or rescheduling of projects classified as exempt from air quality analysis such as safety projects, individual transit projects short of major expansions of the transit fleet, and (2) project schedule changes on regionally significant projects not requiring a shift of horizon years.

The following public involvement provisions may be supplemented with additional measures. MTIP and LRTP amendments and updates have the same public involvement requirements as adopting the MTIP with the following exceptions:

- one display ad per major newspaper at a minimum will suffice; and
- **Public meeting(s)** are at the discretion of the TCC Chair and/or TAC Chair.

Amending the Public Involvement Plan

Revisions to the Public Involvement Plan have the same public notice requirements as a Major MTIP Amendment, except that the minimum public review period will be 45 calendar days.